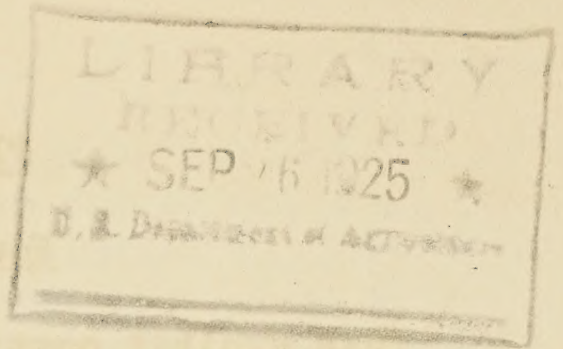


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

PIG CLUBS

A booth exhibit showing a dozen ways of increasing the returns from hogs; and how two boys emphasized the value of controlling round worms.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 13 ft. front, 8 ft.  
Wall space - - - - - None. (deep).  
Shipping weight - - - - - 825 lbs.  
Electrical requirements - None.



## PIG CLUBS

### How It Looks

This exhibit consists of a booth thirteen feet across the front, eight feet deep and seven feet high with the additional special attractions in the form of two life-size cutout figures of club boys standing beside a specially designed table showing a model of a hog house and pictures illustrating successful methods of raising hogs that were used by the two boys.

The booth may be classified as a pictorial instruction booth, since it contains twelve enlarged photographs and short, terse legends on the more important "secrets of success" in pig club work.

When a boy, who has been fairly successful in pig club work, visits this exhibit he can quickly compare his methods with the practices shown and thus gain additional confidence in himself while the unsuccessful boy or man will be able to see wherein he has failed to carry out some one or more of the dozen necessary practices that make for success.

### What It Tells

The age at which a gilt should be bred to produce her first litter depends somewhat on her development. If the breeder is to get the best results he should select only growthy, well-developed young sows. A well-developed sow can be bred safely when she is eight months old. If the sows are not properly conditioned for farrowing, the pigs will not get a good start, and consequently can not make the growth and profit which they should. Suitable feed and ample exercise are the two most important factors of care during pregnancy.

About three days before a sow is due to farrow she should be confined to the pen or house where she will be kept during the farrowing period. The pen should be thoroughly cleaned by removing all the bedding, sweeping the floor and sides, and washing with scalding water and lye. When dry, cover the floor with



good, clean, dry bedding. Wheat or rye straw, short or chopped hay, and shredded corn fodder are good. Do not use oat straw, as it retains moisture too readily. The house should be dry, well ventilated, about seven by seven feet in size, and provided with a guard rail made by placing two-by-four-inch pieces around the inside of the pen about ten inches from the floor and from four to six inches from the sides. This will often prevent the sow from crushing a pig when she lies down.

At the Experiment Farm, Beltsville, Md., sows suckling pigs have been fed by a self-feeder containing shelled corn, middlings, and mineral mixture in separate compartments. The results have been as good or better than by hand-feeding twice daily.

Intestinal worms are common among hogs of all ages and are particularly injurious to young, growing pigs. Pigs become infested by swallowing the worm eggs which are found in the manure of infested hogs or on the soil of pens, yards, and pastures that have been occupied by infested hogs. Every yard and lot in which hogs run should be plowed and seeded to a temporary crop at least once a year; twice would be better. Good, strong, healthy animals have greater resistance to the effect of worms than those in an unthrifty, weak, and run-down condition. Medicinal treatment for worms must be resorted to when methods of prevention have failed.

Of all the diseases from which hogs suffer, hog cholera heads the list. It is an infection and the herd is safe from possible attack only when immunized by the virus-serum treatment. Permanent immunity may be had by giving the pigs this treatment when they are young, which makes the operation less expensive than if done later, and shortens the life during which they are subject to infection.

Feeder pigs weighing from 75 to 110 pounds are practically always in demand. They can generally be profitably produced by feeding a limited grain ration on good pasture. A successful and economical plan of fattening hogs is to "hog down" the corn, also letting the hogs have access to a good alfalfa or red clover pasture and tankage or fish meal in a self-feeder. The hogs will harvest all the corn in this way and in



addition help build up the fertility of the soil. Based on years of observation, hogs weighing from 190 to 235 pounds will command a better price, at least three-fourths of the time, than hogs of lighter or heavier weights.

### Where To Get Information

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin 1357 - Castration of Hogs

Farmers' Bulletin 1457 - Swine Production

Farmers' Bulletin 1455 - Fitting, Judging and Showing Hogs